



Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association (RPCRA) Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday March 7, 2012
Riverside Churches
3191 Riverside Dr., Room 4

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Teresa Reeve – President

Jean Emmell - Director
David Hutchinson – Vice President
Sandra Kearns – Director
Richard Mowry - Director
Andrew Pinsent – Director
Nicole Portelance – Director
Barbara Squire – Treasurer

Board Member Regrets:

Bill Smith – Past President

Members Present:

5 neighbourhood residents present

City representative(s):

Maria McRae, River Ward Councillor

If and when accepted by the Board,
these minutes can be found on the
RPCRA website at
www.riversidepark.ca/htm/minutes

1 Welcome:

Teresa opened the meeting at 7pm.

Tom Babcock has resigned and the board will be looking for a replacement. The board thanks Tom for his contributions to the RPCRA and the community.

David Hutchinson acted as Recording Secretary for this meeting.

2 Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Acceptance of agenda moved by Jean Emmell, seconded by Sandra Kearns, Carried.

As the February minutes were circulated just before the March 7 meeting by email, they were deferred and will be voted on at the April meeting.

3 President's Report:

New Board Member and Membership Drive: Since Tom Babcock has resigned as Director and Secretary, the board will be looking for a new Director and Secretary over the next few weeks. Attendees were invited to make suggestions for new board members and/or RPCRA members.

Paint-it-up Program: Last year's program resulted in a number of graphics being painted on various Bell boxes. This has been successful in that graffiti has appeared on other surfaces but not on those decorated by the Paint-it-up program. This year's program: applications for funds are due by 4pm, Wed. April 4 (before next RPCRA meeting). Sandra has forwarded the information to Jeanette Caron, who organized last year's program in the RPCRA area. Ideas suggested included doing hydro boxes or Canada Post boxes or pedestrian tunnels this time. Please send email to Teresa or Sandra or Jeanette if you have ideas.

Update on Blades: There are still lots of comments from residents opposing the Blades. There still has been no resolution and community residents have expressed their displeasure with the lack of progress on the issue. Teresa invited community residents to send any ideas to her on any next steps they would like the board to pursue. Teresa indicated that the board will write another letter to ensure the Mayor fully understands the issue and urge him to follow-through on his campaign platform to keep local issues within the local area.

Empty Parking Lot (ex-JDS Uniphase Building): currently an eyesore and yet seems to be a good location for development. The Board will look into the current status of ownership of the lot.

Walkley Road Off Ramp: Still interest in the community but no official activity recently.

Street lights: There are lots of streetlights out in the community. Residents are invited to send email to Teresa if they have lights out.

Suggestions for this year's Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque included closing off a street or using a park. It was pointed out that additional food safety requirements may apply if the barbeque moves from last year's location at the Riverside Churches. The event will be in September.

New Email Address for Teresa Reeve: Teresa would like people to know that she has changed email providers and so her sympatico email address is no longer working. "If you have sent me emails (at the sympatico address) in the last month or so I have not received them. If you would like to contact me or any member of the Board please send your email to the riversideparkcra@yahoo.ca address, however if you need to contact me directly, please email teresa.rpcra@gmail.com."

4 Councillor's Report:

Councillor McRae distributed her report for March 7 in hard copy format among board members and residents at the meeting. She readily agreed to provide this and future reports in electronic format so they can be easily posted on the RPCRA website and circulated by email.

The Councillor's report can be found at
www.riversidepark.ca/htm/riverward/monthly_reports

After presenting an overview of her report, Councillor McRae responded to questions and comments from the board and residents present:

- Blades: To remove the existing Blades would require agreement of certain officials and this does not seem to be likely.
- Street lights: Failure of City-maintained lights can be reported via email to streetlighting@ottawa.ca. One to three business days response time can be expected in most cases.
- No recent activity on 3358 Riverside Drive redevelopment. A multi-storey apartment building would require an official plan amendment and City staff are not supportive of such a move.
- Bayview Development: No change on the Bayview property. The City owns the land and intends to zone it and eventually sell it with the zoning as a provision of the sale. A Residential Concept Plan has been done but no sale has been completed. The RPCRA will be notified of any proposals.
- City signs and barriers were ripped down to allow trucks associated with the redevelopment of St. Patrick's Home to have easy access. In response to complaints from residents the Councillor and the City stepped in to stop the illegal truck traffic.

5 Treasurer's Report:

Barb presented a verbal report.

RPCRA has received a donation from Councillor McRae to support our yearly Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque. Many thanks.

We expect to receive a grant from the City for the rinks soon, which will cover all rink expenses.

RPCRA will pay honoraria to the three rink coordinators and Barb proposed giving about 20 community volunteers a small gift. A surplus is expected from the rinks this year due to the weather conditions.

7 Committee Reports:

Festivals Committee. Nicole presented a draft application to be completed by applicants for RPCRA letters of "non-objection". These are letters to the City indicating that the RPCRA does not object to the way the Festival is proposed to be organized.

Suggested changes included site plan details and an indication of whether alcohol would be available. Further comments were solicited, to be emailed to Teresa or Nicole within the next few weeks. Nicole and Teresa will revise and present to the board for a vote on April 4.

Communications Committee. Sandra tabled a document titled "2012 Communications and Implementation Strategy", incorporating a Communications action plan that identifies several key areas of activity for this committee, including a Newsletter, Website Strategy, and communications support for Fundraising Activities. This document was designed to be updated regularly. It can be found at www.riversidepark.ca/htm/committee/communications

The Newsletter will be a priority this year. The committee expects to present some details on newsletter content at the April meeting.

There was discussion about how RPCRA fundraising should be organized. Discussion favoured spreading the load among the Communications and Finance committees. The barbeque was mentioned as a fundraising opportunity.

8 New Business

Photocopies: Nicole inquired about the process for photocopying reports in preparation for board meetings. Teresa suggested that committee chairs should forward a pdf or Word file to the secretary one week before the meeting so email copies could be sent and photocopies could be prepared for distribution at the meeting.

Barbeque Date: Teresa will meet with other organizers to discuss a date, possibly after Labour Day as well as objectives and activities for the barbeque.

Funding from Festivals: Some festivals have pledged to provide funds to do a community project together with the RPCRA that are specific to the event location. There were suggestions that the RPCRA request that the funds be available for more general use. Teresa suggested that targeted funds are still be beneficial to the community. The Hope Festival has dedicated funds for improvement to Mooney's Bay Park, a proposal will be put forward this year to utilize those funds. The Lebanese Festival also pledged funds to do a community improvement project for their event location. The RPCRA will also put forward a proposal this year to utilize those funds.

Land Use Committee Terms of Reference: Jean Emmell proposed that the Land Use Committee not look at every variance issue as tentatively suggested previously. Minor variance applications are just too numerous for routine review by the committee. He will not attend City land use review meetings regarding minor variances but will attend those that involve the whole of Riverside Park (ie Bayview Property, etc.). To clarify and for future reference, he will write up a description of the terms of reference for the Land Use Committee.

St. Patrick's Home: The reduction in bus service and in parking due to construction at St. Patrick's Home are creating difficulties for volunteers and staff to travel to and from the facility. Teresa will follow up with Councillor McRae on the RPCRA letter to OC Transpo in January that highlighted difficulties with recent changes to the bus service.

Environment Committee: Teresa suggested that the RPCRA Environment Committee should begin planning for the City of Ottawa's spring Clean Up the Capital Campaign, and should think about "greening" projects for this coming summer.

9 Termination of Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm was moved by Nicole Portelance, seconded by Jean Emmell. Carried.

David Hutchinson,
Recording Secretary